

Muslim Ummah should fight terrorists for sake of Islam

PM tells UAE ambassador

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina urged the government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to recruit more labourers and professionals from Bangladesh.

She made the request when UAE Ambassador in Bangladesh Khalifan Battal Ali Al Monsouri called on her at her official residence Jamuna yesterday.

The PM said, "I consider the population of Bangladesh as asset and the UAE can recruit labourers in various categories, professionals like engineers, doctors and nurses in larger numbers."

Endorsing the prime minister's observation about the population, the UAE envoy expressed his government's interest in taking more manpower from Bangladesh.

Monsouri hailed the PM for leading the country successfully and hoped that

Bangladesh would be able to achieve its cherished development under her "skilled and visionary" leadership.

Mentioning the new government's plan to create skilled human resources, Hasina said process is going on to set up an expatriate bank to ensure safe migration of the

Bangladeshi people interested to go abroad for work.

She said interested people can take loan from the Expatriate Bank to go abroad and pay the loan back by sending remittances through the bank gradually.

She laid emphasis on working together by the Muslim

Ummah against terrorism.

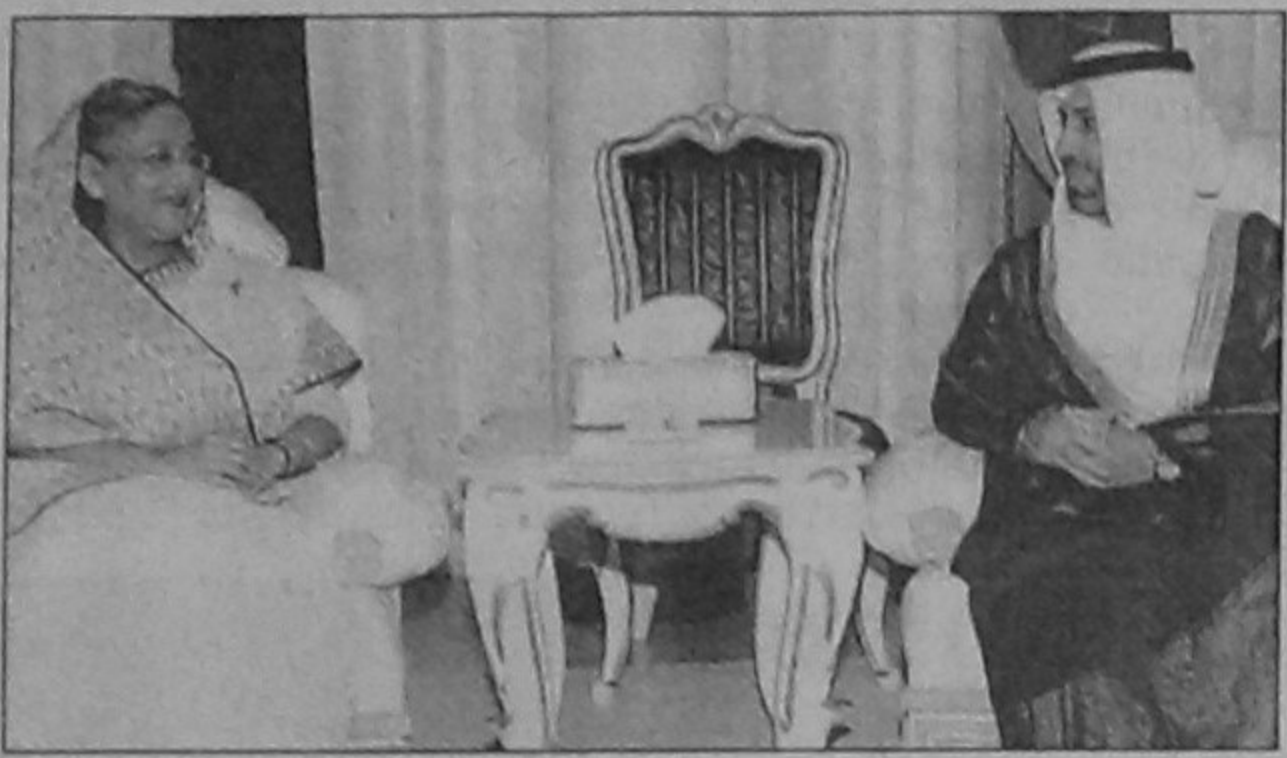
"Terrorists are using the name of Islam to conduct their heinous acts. But Islam is the religion of peace. So the Muslim Ummah should work together against the terrorism," she said.

The envoy said Bangladesh and the UAE should exchange visits of top government officials to further strengthen the bilateral relations in the days to come.

Monsouri invited the PM to visit the Gulf state at her time of convenience.

Hasina requested the envoy to ensure maximum facilities for the Bangladeshi people living in the UAE.

Prime Minister's Office Secretary Mollah Wahiduzzaman, Press Secretary to the PM Abul Kalam Azad, Special Assistant to the PM Abdus Sobhan Golap and former Ambassador Ziauddin were present.



UAE Ambassador Khalifan Battal Ali Al Monsouri calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her official residence Jamuna in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

'Conspiracies on to foil trial of war criminals'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday said a vested quarter is hatching conspiracies against the country to create a bar to or delay in the trial of war criminals and the BDR carnage was also a part of the plots.

War criminals should immediately be tried to stamp out religious fundamentalism in the country as well as to stop the repetition of incidents like BDR massacre, they added.

The discussion on 'Trial of the war criminals and relevant situation' was organised by Combined Citizens' Movement at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) auditorium in the city.

The speakers thanked the government for taking an initiative of trying war criminals by setting up a special tribunal.

Awami League presidium member Abdur Razzak said anti-liberation war forces are hatching conspiracies against the country to delay the trial of war criminals.

"I think the BDR carnage is the first step of conspiracy which took place at a time when the trial process had just begun," he added.

The AL leader hoped that the government would soon form a special tribunal and committee

to investigate war crimes.

Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister GM Quader said, "We have to try the war criminals whatever impediments come to our way. If we try them transparently, no one would be able to say anything about it," adding that if the existing law is not enough for the trial, new laws could be passed.

"We have to finish the trial process for the sake of humanity and world peace," the minister said.

Journalist Shahriar Kabir said, "We have enough laws in the country to try the war criminals. So, we don't need to seek

the help of the United Nations."

"We need international support for the trial and the government should strengthen its diplomatic war for that," he added.

Shahriar, who lost his brother during the liberation war in 1971, further said that the criminals should be tried if we want to root out religious fundamentalism.

With journalist Abed Khan in the chair, the discussion was also addressed by Chief Coordinator of Sector Commanders' Forum Lt Gen (ret'd) Harun-ur Rashid and Workers' Party of Bangladesh leader Fazle Hossain Badsha.



Awami League leader Abdur Razzak speaks at a discussion on 'Trial of war criminals and relevant situation' at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium yesterday. On his left is Shahriar Kabir and on his right are Abed Khan and GM Quader.

PHOTO: STAR

Withdrawal of 'army vehicle torching' case demanded

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University students yesterday demanded immediate withdrawal of 'army vehicle torching' case filed against seven students in connection with the campus unrest in August 2007.

In support of their demand, about 100 students formed a human chain near the Aparajeyo Bangla at noon. Former general secretary of Dhaka University Teachers' Association Prof Anwar Hossain, DU BCL president Sohail Rana Tipu and general secretary Sajjad Sakib Badsha joined the human chain.

The seven students are Rafiqul Islam Sujan, Deen Islam Angel, Abul Hasan, Asaduzzaman Asad, Rashed, Deen Islam and Jahedul Islam Biplab.

Demanding withdrawal of the case, Rafiqul Islam told reporters that they have to appear in the court regularly.

"We are under tremendous pressure. It is hampering our academic activities," he added.

Rafiqul had been detained for several months in connection with the unrest.

Prof Anwar said the case against the students should be withdrawn as a democratic government has now come to power.

The students said they also submitted a memorandum to the vice chancellor yesterday to press home their demand.

Stop BCL violence on campus

Left leaning student bodies urge govt

DU CORRESPONDENT

Progratishil Chhatra Jote (PCJ), an alliance of left leaning student organisations, yesterday demanded of the government to stop violence on the campus by the ruling party student front Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL).

The PCJ leaders also demanded congenial atmospheres on the campuses across the country arresting continuous violence that forced the authorities concerned to close the educational institutions.

They were speaking at a press conference at Madhu's Canteen of Dhaka University.

The leaders placed six-point demand, including immediate reopening of all educational institutions closed following the clashes among the student organisations during the last three months, punishment to those involved in the violence and elections to all student unions.

They said thousands of students and their guardians are feeling insecure following the campus violence that started immediately after Awami League assumed power.

Set up instt to carry out research on Bangabandhu JS body suggests

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The parliamentary standing committee on cultural affairs ministry yesterday recommended that the government set up an institution to study and carry out research on the birth of Bangladesh and life and works of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The committee made this recommendation at its first meeting at the parliament building complex.

The committee also underscored the need for upholding a non-communal spirit to maintain harmony.

Headed by Kazi Keramat Ali, the meeting was also attended by Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad, Asaduzzaman Nur, Monoronjon Shil Gopal and Choyon Islam.

Manpower export crisis to go soon: Dipu Moni

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni yesterday said Bangladesh delegation had positive talks with the Malaysian leaders during her latest visit to Kuala Lumpur.

She said the issue of lowering the cost of migration figured prominently during the meetings.

Dipu said this while replying to reporters of the electronic media after inaugurating the 2nd solo calligraphy exhibition titled 'Most beautiful names: In henna colour' of Ferdous Ara Ahmed at Shilpakala Academy.

She said, "We hope that the crisis regarding manpower export to Malaysia will be over soon. The crisis deepened at a time when Malaysia was going through a political transition. New leadership has taken over. It is now hoped that stability will return soon."

The minister said, "Bangladeshi workers enjoy good reputation in Malaysia. However, in exporting manpower in that country the world recession and political reality of Malaysia has to be kept in consideration."

Dipu visited Malaysia on an invitation to join the conference of the ruling party of that country. From there she went to Netherlands to participate in an international conference on Afghanistan and returned home yesterday morning.

The foreign minister praised the calligraphy and hoped for expansion of the art form in the country.

Dean of Fine Arts Faculty at Dhaka University Prof Rafiqun Nabi was present as the special guest at the event which was presided over by Director General of the academy Bikash Kishore Das.



Visitors at a calligraphy exhibition that began at Shilpakala Academy gallery in the city yesterday. The Shilpakala Academy organised the weeklong exhibition.

PHOTO: STAR

JATKA PROTECTION WEEK 2009

'Frame mega dev plan to boost Hilsa production'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop yesterday said the production of delicious national fish Hilsa can be boosted up to five lakh tonne per year from current production of three lakh tonne if a development mega plan is formulated and implemented in consultation with the concerned ministries and research organisations.

Hilsa contributes 1.2 percent to the gross domestic production, they said stressing on proper enforcement of fish protection act and raising awareness of the preservation of Hilsa (Hilsa fry).

Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute (BFRI) organised the workshop on 'Possibilities in the rise of Hilsa asset and management strategies' at BARC auditorium in the city to mark the Jatka Protection Week 2009.

Speaking as the chief guest, Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdul Latif Biswas said the country earns over Tk

100 crore per year by exporting Hilsa to different countries in the world.

He further said that though Hilsa plays an important role in the national economy and employment, its existence is at stake because of several natural and man-made reasons.

"Indiscriminate fishing of Jatka and fertile fishes, disappearance of the water bodies, reduction of navigability of the rivers, usage of random pesticides, waste of industries and impact of climate changes are responsible for reducing the production of Hilsa in the internal water bodies," he added.

Netting of Hilsa has been prohibited in the breeding season from October 15 to 24 which contributed to rise of jatka, he said, adding that preservation of water bodies and implementation of Hilsa fishery management action plan is a must to increase its production.

Latif said the government has taken elaborate programmes, including rais-

ing awareness, increasing the date of jatka preservation period from three to four months and giving financial assistance to fishermen during the period.

The minister said Tk two crore has been allocated for the alternative employment to create income-generating activities of the affected fishermen and the government will soon expedite the programmes soon.

"We are giving 10 kilograms of rice to each fisherman during the jatka preservation period and the government is planning to increase the allocation to Tk 14 crore for their alternative employment."

Mentioning that the logistics of the coastguard is poor, he said they are discussing with the home ministry to speed up the logistics of the force soon.

In his keynote paper, Dr GS Halder, chief scientist officer of BFRI, said lives and livelihoods of around 20 to 30 lakh people depend on the greater Hilsa industry.

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Book your appointment. Contact:

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